# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# CULTURE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:992
ANSWERED ON:23.10.2008
WORLD HERITAGE STATUS TO MAJULI ISLAND
Sarma Dr. Arun Kumar

**Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has assessed the basic reason for deferring the World Heritage Status to Majuli Island of Assam for the second time;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the conditions laid by the World Heritage Commission on such deferment along with time limit fixed , if any;

(d) the manner and time by which the Government proposes to meet those conditions;

(e) whether the Government proposes for taking up the issue of Majuli again during 2009; and &

(f) if so , the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a)(b)&(c) While deferring a decision on inscription of Majuli Island, the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO recommended the following actions:-

a) Assemble a complete inventory of the 31 surviving Sattras on the island as a preliminary to considering which Sattras might have the potential to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value and be nominated as the property;

b) Allow an ICOMOS evaluation mission to visit the property to consider the extent and scope of the Sattras;

c) Undertake an appraisal of the overall river basin in which Majuli lies and the potential impact of upstream development, deforestation and the building of dams, in order to ascertain whether managed retreat is the only realistic approach to the flooding and erosion processes. No time limit has been fixed by the World Heritage Committee.

(d) (e) &(f)A fresh nomination dossier is required to be prepared by an inter-disciplinary team taking into account the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee. At this stage, it is not possible to indicate a definite time frame for renominating Majuli Island.